

DRAFT
**Otay River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and Special Area
Management Plan (SAMP) - Working Group Meeting Notes**

September 1, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
John Lippitt Public Works Center
1800 Maxwell Road in Chula Vista

Attendees:

Aspen Environmental: Michelle Mattson, Spencer MacNeil
Audubon Society: Jim Peugh, Don Peters
Citizens: Theresa Acerro, Frank Ohrmund
City of Chula Vista: Josie Gabriel, Khosro Aminpour
City of San Diego: Rick Fox, Bob Collins
County of San Diego: Tom Oberbauer (DPLU), Trish Boaz (DPLU),
Bethany Yamanaka (DPLU)
EDAW: Meredith Speicher
McMillin Communities: Todd Galarneau
Native Plant Society: Cindy Burrascano
Otay Land Co.: Jon Rilling
Otay Valley Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee:
John Willett, Wayne Dickey
Port of San Diego: Karen Helyer
RBF: Marc Schulte
Regional Board: Bruce Posthumus
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge: Victoria Touchstone
TAIC: Debbie Turner
Wildlands, Inc.: Mark Tucker

Handouts:

- Draft Notes from 08-04-04 Working Group/ Project Team Meeting
- Consolidated Working Group Otay River Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives
- Otay River Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives Identified During and After the June 22, 2004 Working Group Meeting
- Water Quality Indicators for the Otay River Watershed
- Socioeconomic and Land Use Indicators for the Otay River Watershed
- Biological Indicators for the Otay River Watershed
- Otay River Watershed Management Plan Outline as of August 6, 2004
- Otay River WMP Future Activities

1. Call to Order

Introductions were made

Notes Reviewed

2. Project Director Report

Trish Boaz announced that the decision of the Water Quality Control Board to terminate the Proposition 13 contract cannot be appealed and the County of San Diego will provide replacement funding in order to move the watershed plan forward.

Deliverables are being posted on the websites and deadlines for comments on deliverables will also be posted from now on.

3. Consultant Discussions and Working Group Feedback

re: Goals and Objectives

There is tentatively an Executive Committee meeting on September 21, 2004. The Executive Committee will be presented with the Goals and Objectives of the Working Group/ Project Team and asked to recommend to the Policy Committee to adopt the Goals and Objectives for the Otay River Watershed Management Plan.

John Willett would like to see footnotes added spelling out the acronyms used in the Goals and Objectives.

Vicki Touchstone was concerned with the objective, "Provide sediment Control while allowing for natural sand replenishment" under goal 2. Protect and Enhance Water Quality.

Spencer MacNeil suggested that there are other WMP goals and objectives that would dissuade or potentially preclude those who might use the natural sand transport objective as a basis for filling in the sand-and-gravel pits. Filling in these pits would, for example, adversely impact aquatic resources

Marc Schulte stated that RBF will look at all goals and objectives and match them with Best Management practices.

Rick Fox stated that urban runoff and population in drinking water watershed should be addressed in the goals and objectives. He was concerned with urban developments and increase of impervious surface cover and feels that an objective should be enhanced or added to address this concern.

There was concern among the group with goal 3. Integrate Aspects of Existing Programs and Plans that are Sustainable and Compatible with Meeting the Goals of the Watershed Management Plan. There was concern that the watershed

management plan should not necessarily be required to be compatible with existing plans and should be able to make recommendations to change existing plans.

Trish Boaz stated that existing plans have been approved and that there are opportunities in water plans, encompassing watersheds, under proposition 50.

Khosro Aminpour stated that the City of Chula Vista's general plan includes features to protect the environment and the updates to the plan should also do so.

Bruce Posthumus stated that the watershed management plan should be able to recommend changes in existing plans and that plans are subject to change.

Trish Boaz stated that the watershed management plan can recommend changes to existing plans but that it should not be a goal or objective to change existing plans.

Todd Galarneau suggested that language should be changed in the objectives from "compatible with" existing plans to "acknowledge" existing plans.

The objective "allow for a streamlined permitting process for regional park activities" under goal 3 should be deleted. This is a SAMP goal.

The objective "Make certain that the existing plans and programs are integrated only if compatible and sustainable with the watershed's functions and values" should be deleted.

The objective "Identify gaps between existing plans so that strategies can be developed and individual jurisdictions can determine whether or not they want to implement recommendations" should be enhanced.

Mark Tucker stated that it is important to differentiate between goals and objectives. He suggested that specificity should be added and objectives should be written as explicit actions, describing what actions will allow for the goals and objectives should be measurable.

Jim Peugh stated that under goal 5. Protect Public Safety, an objective should be added concerning avoidance of development in the floodplain.

Debbie Turner of TAIC made a presentation on the GIS inventory that had been done on the Otay River Watershed. She reviewed that graphics that have been posted on the websites as part of the deliverables.

There was discussion as to what County thresholds are concerning impervious cover.

4. Overall Project Schedule

Trish Boaz reviewed the Otay River WMP Future Activities Schedule and noted that it was subject to change depending upon the outcome of a meeting scheduled for September 8, 2004 with Bruce Posthumus of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Jim Peugh asked whether modeling will be done. Spencer MacNeil reported that the Army Corp of Engineers is developing a model that is not yet finalized. Marc Schulte of RBF gave an overview of a model used by the EPA that will be used in the interim.

Concern was raised over the ability to do an accurate analysis. Spencer MacNeil stated that indicators had been identified and that problem areas and mechanisms to address them can be implemented. Areas that should be avoided or areas that would be susceptible to erosion can also be identified. There are assumptions made in models as well as limitations.

5. The next Project Team/Working Group meeting is Wednesday, October 6, 2004, same time, same place.

6. Upcoming Events/Public Announcements

Trish Boaz announced that there would be a meeting facilitator at the upcoming meetings.

John Willett adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.